

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

SIX COUNTIES SEND JUVENILE PROBATION STAFF TO BE TRAINED TO INTERPRET THE SPEP™

JJSES Stage 3 SPEP™ activity continues to expand as additional probation staff are trained to understand how the SPEP™ can benefit their decision making. On October 8th, 2019, sixteen juvenile probation staff from Adams, Lancaster, Pike, Schuylkill, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties participated in the first statewide SPEP™ Informed Training held on campus at Penn State University.

The half-day SPEP™ Informed Training was developed to enable probation staff to gain a better understanding of how SPEP™ is affecting the services they utilize. SPEP™ Informed Training enables probation staff to:

- *Interpret* SPEP™ research findings and implications to inform recommendations for dispositional hearings in terms of risk, need, and responsivity factors.
- *Explain* this information to judges, district attorneys, public defenders, placement liaisons, and community-based providers.
- *Make more specific recommendations* to the Court which match dosage and duration targets outlined in the research. This will assist communication with families in understanding length of stay or assigned weeks in community-based services.
- *Understand* service provider needs as the alignment between juvenile probation and the service provider becomes clear.
- *Decide* if they want to attend the SPEP™ Level 1 training to administer the SPEP™ in their area.

Currently, eighteen Counties have staff trained as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists (to create SPEP™ Scores), five counties have staff trained as Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers, and eight counties have staff trained as SPEP™ Informed. **SPEP™ Informed Training workshops will be offered at the 2019 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.** SPEP™ Informed Training can also be facilitated in individual probation departments or regionally upon request. For more information about the SPEP™ Informed Training or inviting this training to your area, please contact Shawn Peck at smp31@psu.edu.



Pictured from left to right in front row: Lisa Freese, (EPISCenter – Level 3 Master Trainer), Chandelle Catrone (Lancaster), Ashley Woolweaver (EPISCenter), Second row: Christina Munshower (Washington), Addie Bertram (Washington), Kylie Garner (Washington), Monica Baronick (Washington), Nick Davidson (Washington), Susan Strenske (Westmoreland), Ashley Deyell (Washington), Patrick Bonner (Washington), Shannon O’Lone (EPISCenter), Christa Park (EPISCenter), Third row: Shawn Peck (EPISCenter – Level 3 Master Trainer), Dawn Hooton (EPISCenter), Kevin Perluke (EPISCenter), Tim Munley (Schuylkill), Michael McCartin (Lancaster), Daniel Wilson (Pike), Jeff Angradi (Pike), Dan Reck (Adams), Bill Shultz (Allegheny – Level 2 Trainer), Jason Kozar (Washington), Gale Kendall (Adams), and Sue Christner (Lebanon – Level 2 Trainer).